

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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The following is a summary of Soviet and KVP military developments and activities observed prior to 25 April:

## 1. Soviet Troop Movements and Exercises.

- a. First Guards Mechanized Army. An exercise was held by the 9th Guards Tank Division in the Zeithain-Grossenhain area between 3 and 6 April. The following observations were made in this connection: railroad loadings in Riesa on 2 April, troop movements in an easterly direction from Zeithain on 3 April, and artillery and rocket launcher units in position in the northeast sector of the Zeithain troop training grounds on 6 April. On the evening of 6 April, the 108th Tank Regiment and element of the 8th Rifle Regiment departed from Zeithain in the direction of Riesa and Oschatz respectively.
- b. Second Guards Mechanized Army. An exercise was conducted by the 12th Guards Tank Division in the Wittstock training area in the period of 5 to 10 April. The division was reinforced by elements of the 2nd Light Artillery Brigade, the 18th Engineer Battalion of the 1st Mechanized Division, and probably by elements of the 88th Engineer Regiment. Bridge construction was observed at Tornow Lake, north of Neuruppin, on 10 April. Tank firing practice was held daily by the 12th Guards Tank Division in the Gentzrode area between 8 and 15 April. An exercise conducted by small elements of the 9th Guards Tank Division, possibly reinforced by the 33rd Guards Rifle Regiment, took place in the area southwest of Fuerstenberg between 6 and 8 April.

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- c. Third Guards Mechanized Army. The barracks installations in Rosslau were still occupied almost to capacity prior to 16 April. Apparently, only advance parties of the 7th Guards Tank Division, have left for the troop training grounds, probably Letzling Heath.
- d. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army. Shipments of tank details of the 6th and 7th Guards Mechanized Divisions and of the 25th Tank Division to and from firing practice at Templin and Lieberose were observed in early April, in Eberswalde, Kaulsdorf, Frankfurt, Oranienburg and Prenzlau. Preparations for departure to training grounds were observed in Prenzlau between 6 and 12 April. The departure of troops stationed in Fuerstenwalde was scheduled to take place on about 20 April.
- e. Third Shock Army. The transfer of elements of the 18th Mechanized Division from Ludwigslust was scheduled to take place on 3 and 4 May. The 136th Gun Artillery Regiment of the 4th Guards Artillery Brigade was scheduled to transfer from Schwerin to the Wittstock area between 20 and 30 April. On 12 April, elements of the 62nd Guards Mechanized Regiment of the 19th Guards Mechanized Division departed from the Anger Kaserne (5284) in Magdeburg, presumably for a short-term exercise.
- f. Eighth Guards Army. The 21st Guards Mechanized Division, reinforced by elements of the 76th Artillery Brigade, held an exercise in the Naumburg-Jena area between 29 March and 1 April. Six shipments from Halle and Merseburg were observed in the assembly area northwest of Naumburg on 28 and 29 March. The detraining stations for the units participating in the exercise were at Naumburg, Freyburg/Unstrut, Bad Bibra and Koesen. Troop bivouacs were observed in the woods north and south of Naumburg. Tanks and motor vehicles were dug in. Southward movements via Camburg/Saale were observed. The "enemy" group, presumably composed of elements of the 57th Guards Rifle Division, advanced north from the area east and west of Jena. Jet aircraft were observed in connection with the exercises. Between 100 and 150 men were engaged in enlarging and repairing the engineer training site on the southern bank of the Elbe, west of Dessau, between 9 and 16 April.
- g. IV Artillery Corps. Two shipments carrying elements of the 34th Artillery Division went from Wildpark to Altengrabow on 12 April.
- h. GOFG Units. Elements of the 36th Pontoon Bridge Regiment engaged in water exercises on the Elbe, east of Biederitz, on 4 and 8 April. Between 300 and 400 men, equipment for four bridges and ten pontoon trucks were observed at the regiment's training site southeast of Rosslau between 9 and 16 April.

## 2. KVP Developments.

- a. The units of the seven KVP divisions are still in their home garrisons. Their winter training is nearing completion.
- b. The Guard Regiment at Berlin-Kaulsdorf, whose strength on 6 April was about 1,100 men, was scheduled to transfer to Strausberg upon the completion of the construction work there. The 3rd battalion of the regiment is already engaged in guard duties at the new installation.
- c. Firing with live ammunition by artillery and tank units Corps North continued at the Jaegerbrueck training grounds up to mid-April. Artillery units of Erfurt and Halle Divisions held firing exercises with live ammunition at Zuellsdorf, northeast of the Torgau troop training grounds, after 5 April.

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- d. A new AAA firing range has been in operation at Darss, near Zingst, since mid-March. Firing by AAA units of Corps South, Corps North and the Potsdam Division have been held there since 10 April. A gas defense course was given by the Eggesin Division in early April. Gas defense instruction has also been given to the other KVP divisions.
- e. Recruits were inducted at an increased rate during March. The recruits are first assigned to regimental training units prior to their distribution to companies.
- f. A new KVP spare parts depot for motor vehicles and tanks has been established at Finow.

### 3. General Summary.

The final phase of Soviet winter training continued up to mid-April. The divisions have not yet left for the summer camps. There has been a two week delay in departure as compared with previous years. Their departure is now expected to take place in early May. Fear of hostile May Day demonstrations may be a reason for this delay. The transfer of KVP units to summer camps is expected to take place in the second half of May, following the spring inspection of the units by the KVP section of the Interior Ministry.

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